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POLICE KILLED BY SNIPERS IN DALLAS
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Lost Canadians
Thousands living in a grey zone without citizenship
metroNEWS

Foreign homebuyers 5 per cent

HOUSING CRISIS

NDP calling province's data 'a very lowball estimate'

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Five per cent of homes purchased in Metro Vancouver from June 10 to June 29 went to foreign nationals, according to the British Columbia government.

Finance Minister Mike de Jong released the provincial government's first-ever data on homebuyer nationality on Thursday, after it started collecting citizenship data on property transfer tax return forms earlier this year.

Of the 5,118 homes bought in the region during that short period, 94.92 per cent were bought by Canadian citizens or permanent residents while 4.57 per cent went to foreign nationals.

Provincewide, 10,148 homes were sold in that period, 96.68 per cent to Canadian citizens and permanent residents and 2.54 per cent to foreign nationals.

The average value of a transaction involving foreign nationals was $1,157,000, compared to the $735,000 spent by citizens and permanent residents.

De Jong cautioned several times that the sample sizes and time frames are too small to draw conclusions from.

Government plans to release updated statistics monthly given the intense public interest in Vancouver's red-hot real estate market.

"We have the data for the first time. It is real, it is actual and it is factual," said de Jong.

But not everyone agrees the figures are accurate.

New Democratic Party Leader John Horgan and NDP MLA David Eby said the impact of foreign investment on the region's real estate market is likely much higher than indicated on the self-reported forms.

Eby said it's easy to work around the form question if a property is purchased using a numbered company or trust, and suggested linking sale records with income tax data is a more accurate method of gauging foreign involvement in the market.

"At best, these numbers reflect a very lowball estimate of the money coming into the market from people who are not living or working here," he said. "Even if it is as low as the government says it is, and I don't believe it for a second, it shows (foreign investment) is causing inflation in the market."

B.C. Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver called 19 days worth of data "completely meaningless."

Meanwhile, de Jong also released statistics on the number of housing projects currently awaiting approval in the cities of Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond, Coquitlam and New Westminster.

An audit conducted by consulting firm Deloitte, hired by the province, found 108,000 housing units were currently awaiting final approval.

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metro NEWS
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Drake 'emotional and truly scared' after hearing about shooting of black American

Hosts use Airbnb to pay for home

HOUSING

Yet report finds top earners list multiple units, don't live there

The home-sharing service Airbnb is pushing back against growing concerns that it's having a negative impact on rental vacancies in Vancouver.

A new report released by the company Thursday says more than half of people who rent out their homes do so to afford their skyrocketing cost of living.

"It shows the majority of people in Vancouver are doing this on occasion and doing this as supplemental income," said Max Pomeranc, Airbnb's regional head of public policy.

Vancouver is studying the impact of Airbnb and similar websites on rental housing, as the vacancy rate sits at 0.6 per cent. Staff will report to council in September with suggestions on how to regulate the service.

There are over 4,200 active Airbnb hosts in Vancouver with some 6,400 units listed in 2015. Seventy per cent of those were entire homes, while the rest were private or shared rooms.

The report says the average host makes about $6,500 annually by occasionally renting out space and uses at least half of this income on their rent or mortgage, or household goods such as groceries.

Airbnb says the statistics signal that people aren't keeping properties vacant to profit on sharing but rather are listing their space when they're away.

The company prepared the report, based on 2015 survey and bookings data, in response to questions from the city.

> People in Vancouver are doing this on occasion and doing this as supplemental income.
> Max Pomeranc

Vancouver bylaws prohibit rentals of less than 30 days outside of licensed bed and breakfasts or hotels.

Iain Marjoribanks recently released a report that found Airbnb's top earners in Vancouver are commercial hosts who list multiple units and don't live in them. He used methodology developed by San Francisco, with cutoffs of 59 days for full homes and 89 days for rooms.

He said Airbnb's report shows 47 per cent of listings are booked more than 60 days, consistent with his finding that 53 per cent of hosts are commercial users.

"I don't know anybody who goes on a two-month vacation," said Marjoribanks, a student at the University of British Columbia's school of community and regional planning.

A significant number of commercial hosts list units on several home-sharing platforms, including HomeAway and VRBO, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman walks past a 29-unit apartment building that reportedly has 17 Airbnb listings, in Vancouver on Wednesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCITY

Report shows rental market too pricey for young workers

Canada's largest credit union is warning that young workers who have long since abandoned hope of owning a home in the Vancouver area are now being priced out of the city's rental market.

A new report from Vancity explores the tight rental market across Vancouver and the problem it poses for millennials.

Vancity vice-president of community investment, William Azaroff, says the report shows that only the Marpole and East Hastings neighbourhoods remain affordable for the average worker under 40, earning less than $40,000.

He says millennials are being forced to the suburbs because Vancouver's high rents and near-zero vacancy rate mean renting is no longer an alternative to home ownership.

Azaroff says the report recommends governments encourage more rental housing construction by offering tax breaks and other incentives to developers.

He predicts businesses will be unable to attract new workers if vacancy rates remain low, because tenants won't want to make a long commute from the suburbs.

"Business owners (have) to be able to attract workers and if the people who would consider working there can't get rental within a decent commute to those jobs, then you don't have that kind of labour fluidity or labour mobility, so people can move to where the jobs are within our region," says Azaroff.

Renters chased to the suburbs by high rents and a lack of vacancies in Vancouver may find more affordable housing, but the report also says they will spend much more on transportation and other related costs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VANCOUVERING

with icons by **Danielle Vallée** from the noun project

Lost Canadians live in limbo

Kafkaesque immigration rules have locked out thousands who should be citizens but aren't

CAFÉ POLITICS **IDENTITY**

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A cyber-security expert is on hold for a Simon Fraser University IT job because a bureaucratic loophole blocked him from inheriting his Canadian grandmother's citizenship.

A First Nations man spent his life in stateless "limbo" because his parents hid him from residential schools in the 1950s.

A Vancouver resident had to fight to be Canadian despite being born in Canada — out of wedlock in an era when it was socially unacceptable — and is now fighting for other so-called "Lost Canadians."

These are just three among thousands of others who have fallen through the cracks of Canada's immigration system and who are fighting for a fix despite governments' repeated promises.

"I basically live in a grey zone," said Kyle Lopez, a 32-year-old living in Atlanta, Ga., whose Canadian grandmother lost her citizenship around 1965 after she married an American. Lopez's father was later granted citizenship, but he's been stuck in limbo for years.

Yet he has no problem crossing the border frequently to visit Vancouver, where he was recently offered an SFU job — on condition he prove he's Canadian.

"I've tried four times for proof of citizenship," he told Metro in a phone interview. "Every time they look at the law they'd say, 'We think you are Canadian but we don't know. It's a grey area.' Basically, the left hand has no idea what the right hand's doing."

The federal government said it overhauled its policies in 2009 and 2015 to restore citizenship to all but a "very small" number of Lost Canadians. Anyone who feels they deserve status can contact Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, a spokeswoman said.

"The minister has the authority to grant citizenship on a discretionary basis to alleviate cases of special and unusual hardship," Nancy Chan stated in an email. "Those cases are assessed on a case-by-case basis."

Some have successfully requested such an assessment. One of them is Don Chapman, self-styled spokesman and author of The Lost Canadians.

"These anomalies in law continue," he said. "We have a Citizenship Act that is based on previous acts, with amendments to amendments to amendments. It's become a barnacled creature growing more barnacles."

According to Donovan McGlaughlin, a 62-year-old Yukon retiree, "there are 10,000 hoops and hurdles you have to jump through."

Don Chapman, author of The Lost Canadians, in Yaletown on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **(The Citizenship Act)'s become so confusing that no one actually understands who is entitled to citizenship.** Don Chapman

The former jack-of-all-trades was born in Ontario to Canadian parents, has lived his entire life in Canada but spent his life effectively stateless.

Why? His First Nations parents knew he'd likely be snatched up by authorities and forced into a residential school. So they didn't register his birth.

McGlaughlin suggested Canada create an independent Citizenship Ombudsman to review complicated cases.

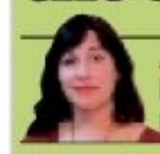
"An ombudsman could be a final sober thought when people have nowhere else to go," he said. "It's desperately needed."

On March 21 last year, McGlaughlin finally got what he'd sought for decades: a short citizenship ceremony that lasted two minutes but he'll remember for the rest of his life.

"It took a while to sink in, in all honesty," he said. "The storm clouds lifted from over me. There were always dark clouds; you have no future."

TRENDING

Thinking outside the box



Amy Logan
For Metro | Vancouver

Across Vancouver, shipping containers are being repurposed in creative ways.

Every year, more than two million shipping containers pass through Port Metro Vancouver, leaving thousands of end-of-life containers that can be bought for cheap.

Atira Women's Resource Society opened Canada's first multi-dwelling container housing project in 2013 in Railtown. The three-storey Oneesan Container Housing Project serves women who have experienced abuse. In May of this year, council approved another Atira development.

At Trillium North Park, two bright green shipping containers affectionately called the Green Tank play host to numerous classes and environmental art and hand skills workshops. Native plants are grown and harvested in the park, then used in environmental art projects hosted out of the shipping container.

Not to be outdone: Vancouver Food Pedalers grows microgreens year-round in converted shipping container.

With its need for low-cost housing, a good supply of creative thinkers, and a collective desire to reduce waste and build community, Vancouver is poised to be a leader in the field of repurposed shipping containers.

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THINK BIG. LIVE LOCAL

Dare to tame the Lions

FRESH AIR

Graeme McRanor
For Metro

Last summer, I made three attempts to summit the Lions on Vancouver's North Shore

The first, via the Lions-Binkert trail (from Lions Bay), was quickly aborted due to the previous night's wine consumption. The second, via the aptly named Unnecessary Mountain, was called off halfway up due to high winds felling a fir tree very close to me. The third, again via the Lions-Binkert, got me within striking distance of the West Lion before I had to turn around due to waning daylight.

So it goes.

I'm not a fan of the first hour of this hike — up a boring, disused logging road — but it eventually flattens out. And, after roughly 30 minutes, you're almost at the summit.

Just kidding. Shortly after the trail starts to ascend again, it becomes quite rocky and you'll take a sharp right (there's a "Lions" sign) to descend to Harvey Creek. Once across the bridge, the trail immediately goes up again, and this section has several downed trees to navigate under.

After some more climbing, you'll see a small clearing off the main trail, with a view of Howe Sound. Drink some water and have a snack here — the next section is tough.

In fact, I'd venture it's the toughest, except that, on a hot day, it's completely protected by trees. So, while it's steep and features lots of roots, logs and boulders, you're not exposed to the sun.

That changes once you hit the first ridge, which offers a splendid view of the West Lion (and Howe Sound in the other direction). Now you've got the unrelenting sun to deal with, but you're feeling strong because it looks like you're almost there.

Except you're not. And with the amount of snow at the top (I did it June 26), the section that leads up to the Howe Sound Crest Trail was a real grind: I had to kick endless toe holds into the snow on the steepest parts. That and my heavy pack had me cursing the climbing gods by the time I crested the top ridge.

Hikers can climb right to the top of the West Lion, left.

But all was eventually forgiven. What a view!

I scrambled up some rocks, found a nice spot to enjoy it and ate lunch.

Afterwards, I stood up, turned around and started on my three-hour descent.

Fourth time's the charm.

TRAIL DEETS

Difficulty
High

Time
8 hours return

Distance
16 km return

Elevation gain
1,280 metres over 8 km

How to get there
(Approx. 45 mins from city) Take Highway 99 north to Lions Bay. Exit right at Lions Bay Avenue then go left on Cross Creek Road, right on Centre Road, left on Bayview Road, left on Mountain Drive, and left on Sunset Drive. The parking area is small and fills up fast on weekends.

Tips
Bring plenty of water.

FOOD NOTES DEEP FREEZE

A nitro-tious dessert

Erin Ireland
Metro | Vancouver

It was 2:30 p.m. on an overcast Thursday when I first visited Mister, Yaletown's month-old artisanal ice cream shop. The lineup was out the door. Considering the weather and time of day, I was surprised. But then I saw what was drawing the crowd: plumes of nitrogen steam billowing from a mixer containing a single portion of ice cream. The sight was mesmerizing. I was desperate for a scoop.

Owners Michael Lai and Tommy Choi tell me that, because the liquid nitrogen freezes the ingredients more quickly, yielding smaller ice crystals and less air, their ice cream is creamier, denser and smoother.

The dense creaminess of my dark chocolate scoop was precisely the first thing I noticed when I dove into my ice cream cup. Each bite seemed to last longer in my mouth, as if it were melting more slowly than normal ice cream. The sweetness level was just right, too. If dairy-free options are your preference, perhaps call the shop in advance to make sure they're stocked (it sells out quickly).

Other flavour options include avocado, double Oreo, lemon and, the crowd favourite, crème brulee.

Soon to hit the menu are Golden Oreo strawberry and rose pistachio. The vegan options will also be expanding — Michael and Tommy are working on perfecting their coconut cream and cashew milk-based recipes.

madebymister.com

metro

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- Achieve maximum sales and profit margins through creative merchandising strategies
- Make certain that all Meat items are cut, trimmed and processed to company standards
- Ensure efficient workforce utilization, ensure staffing goals are met, and perform training and development of staff members
- Ensure proper set-up of counters, tables, coolers, backroom and proper rotation of products
- Establish and maintain daily and weekly work and cleaning schedules
- Liase with the store manager, department heads and meat staff to discuss upcoming ads or promotions, cross merchandising and/or addressing any concerns or issues that may arise
- Receive and unload meat products, while checking for count, condition and quality
- Work towards providing a positive shopping environment for customers and a progressive work environment for staff members

The successful candidate will have the following skills and qualifications:

- Previous, relevant grocery/meat experience in a supervisory capacity
- Post-secondary Meat Cutting training/journeyman certification or equivalent work experience
- Ability to lead a team and offer coaching and mentoring to increase team engagement and productivity
- A high level of communication, interpersonal and conflict resolution skills
- Take a genuine interest in people and has a strong commitment to providing top-quality customer service
- Have an excellent command of the English language – both verbal and written
- Able to process a variety of meat cuts
- Able to multi-task, meet deadlines and work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to maintain a flexible schedule (including evenings, weekends, and holidays) in order to meet the needs of the department

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Toddler's political tantrum gets results

PARLIAMENT

Sophia's tearful demand to meet Harjit Sajjan was granted

A two-year-old girl's tearful plea on Canada Day has turned into a dream come true.

Sophia Popalyar got her wish Thursday, touring Parliament Hill with Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and even sitting in the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons.

The visit was the result of a Twitter courtship over the last week between the toddler, who has a knack for recalling the names of federal Liberal cabinet ministers, and Sajjan, a key minister in Justin Trudeau's cabinet.

On July 1, Popalyar's father, Fawad, filmed his daughter in the family car as she heartbreakingly asked to go to the Canada Day festivities on Parliament Hill, regardless of the rainy weather.

In the clip, Sophia said she wanted to see the defence minister. The only problem was that Sajjan happened to be celebrating in his home province of B.C.

A short while later, Sajjan posted his own video addressed to Sophia, promising that his staff would arrange a meeting upon his return.

"I'm looking forward to meeting you because one of my goals is to meet with future leaders of Canada," he said.

The minister met Sophia, who was accompanied by her parents, in the rotunda, just inside from the House of Commons' main entrance. Hunkering down to the young girl's eye-level the two talked about how the historic building would be just the place for a game of tag or hide and seek, said Sajjan's spokesman, Jordan Owens.

They toured the Senate, the Library of Parliament and the Commons, where Sophia sat in the Speaker's chair.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and two-year-old Sophia Popalyar during a visit to Parliament Hill on Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

POLITICS

Electoral reform won't be easy: Election chief

The Liberals' proposal to overhaul Canada's electoral system just got more complicated.

Outgoing Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand told MPs Thursday a new voting system may require a long and difficult process to redraw Canada's 338 electoral districts.

Mayrand said it's still possible, if the government moves quickly, to put in place a new system for 2019 — but it's not so simple as placing a new process over the existing ridings.

"Even looking at a streamlined process to simply aggregate the current ridings, you will have pockets where aggregation will not necessarily be the best way to go. You may find, among other things, a community of interest could be linguistic. Or you may suddenly, through aggregation, completely dilute a community of interest."

Part of the problem is that Elections Canada doesn't know what kind of system will be ultimately proposed.

The electoral reform committee is meeting throughout the summer to come up with a recommendation for Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef. The Liberal cabinet, however, will ultimately decide on legislation.

Mayrand, who is stepping down later this year, said many things are possible — but repeatedly noted the clock is ticking.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DETAILS

- While the Liberals have not endorsed any system, the NDP is pushing for a form of proportional representation, which they argue would reflect the popular vote.
- The Conservatives are generally thought to support the current first-past-the-post system, and say Canada's 149-year-old voting system shouldn't be substantially changed without a referendum.
- Mayrand told MPs that Elections Canada estimates a referendum would cost around $300 million.

Police killed by snipers at Dallas protest

At least two snipers opened fire on police officers during protests in Dallas on Thursday night, killing four officers and injuring seven others, police said.

Dallas Police Chief David Brown told reporters the snipers fired "ambush style" upon the officers. Police later said in a statement that a suspect who was in a shootout with Dallas SWAT officers was is in custody and a person of interest had surrendered. They said a suspicious package was being secured by a bomb squad.

The gunfire broke out around 8:45 p.m. local time Thursday while hundreds of people were gathered to protest fatal police shootings this week in Louisiana and Minnesota.

The protesters had gathered after a Minnesota officer on Wednesday fatally shot Philando Castile while he was in a car with a woman and a child in a St. Paul suburb. The aftermath of the shooting was livestreamed in a widely shared Facebook video.

A day earlier, Alton Sterling was shot in Louisiana after being pinned to the pavement by two white officers. That, too, was captured on a cellphone video.

Video footage from the scene in Dallas showed that protesters were marching along a street in downtown, about half a mile from Dallas City Hall, when the shots erupted and the crowd scattered, seeking cover.

Police respond after shots were fired at a protest rally in Dallas on Thursday. SMILEY N. POOL/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott released a statement saying he has directed the Texas Department of Public Safety director to offer "whatever assistance the City of Dallas needs at this time."

"In times like this we must remember — and emphasize — the importance of uniting as Americans," Abbott said.

The search for the gunman stretched throughout downtown, an area of hotels, restaurants, businesses and some residential apartments. The scene was chaotic, with helicopters hovering overhead and officers with automatic rifles on the street corners.

> **It was tap tap pause. Tap tap pause.**
> Witness Carlos Harris describing the shots

"Everyone just started running," Devante Odom, 21, told The Dallas Morning News. "We lost touch with two of our friends just trying to get out of there."

Carlos Harris, who lives in downtown Dallas, told the newspaper that the shooters "were strategic. It was tap tap pause. Tap tap pause."

The gunshots in Dallas came amid protests nationwide over the recent police shootings.

In midtown Manhattan, protesters first gathered in Union Square Park where they chanted "The people united, never be divided!" and "What do we want? Justice. When do we want it? Now!"

A group of protesters then left the park and began marching up Fifth Avenue blocking traffic during the height of rush hour as police scrambled to keep up. Another group headed through Herald Square and Times Square where several arrests were reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
SCIENCE SAYS Weekend, July 8-10, 2016

BABY GAIT
3D-camera studies are shedding light on why pregnant women have that distinctive, waddling walk — and could help prevent falls in the future.

WHAT IS JUPITER, ANYWAY?

NASA calls it the 'biggest, baddest planet in the solar system.' Gigantic, gaseous, magnetic, ultra-radioactive **Jupiter** — 300 times more massive than Earth — is unknown to us in so many ways. But thanks to the **Juno mission spacecraft**, which entered the mammoth planet's orbit July 4, that's about to change.

VERY FAST FACTS

- **NASA's Juno spacecraft is the fastest human-made object ever,** with a peak speed of about **209,000 km/h.**

It's about **9 m** across at its widest point, including the solar panels that power its flight, and weighs **3,625 kg**.

2-metre human

- At its closest approach, it cruises **4,000 km** above Jupiter's clouds.
- Juno launched on **Aug. 5, 2011** and travelled **2,800,000,000 km** from Earth to arrive at Jupiter on **July 4, 2016**.
- Its electronic instruments are encased in a titanium box built to withstand the radiation equivalent of **100 million X-rays at once.**
- Total mission cost: **$1.13B U.S.**

HOW JUNO WORKS

As the spacecraft flies around Jupiter, its orbit will wobble and it will change speeds a bit as it passes over regions with slight variations in gravity. These wobbles can be detected by radio antenna on Earth.

If the planet has a rocky core, Juno is expected to speed up a bit on its path between the pole and the equator. The radio signals heard on earth will be higher-pitched. This is called the **Doppler Effect**.

THE (GAS) GIANT MYSTERY

Even if you could bear the cold (around -145 C at the surface), you couldn't walk on Jupiter. **It's made up of 99 per cent helium and hydrogen gas**.

What's the other one per cent? Nobody knows exactly, but Jupiter's insides are made of something very, very heavy. The outer core is thought to be **metallic hydrogen**: hydrogen gas under such tremendous pressure it starts to behave like a metal. The planet might also have an inner core: Maybe made of rock, maybe heavy metal, maybe something else. That's what Juno is trying to learn.

GRAPHICS: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

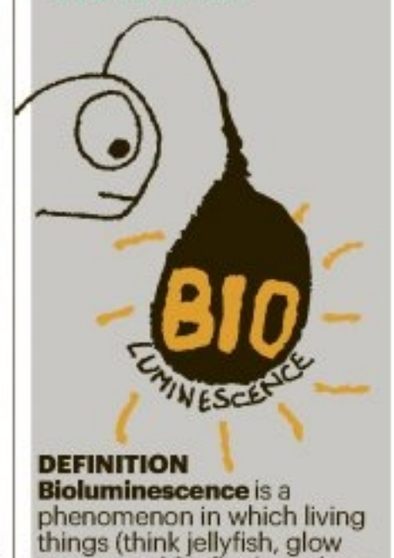
FINDINGS
Your week in science

MICHAEL LANDRESS/FLICKR

SLIPPERY SWIMMERS
Researchers writing in the Journal of Experimental Biology have discovered that swordfish have an oil gland that lubricates their heads to reduce drag and allow them to shoot through the water, sword-first, at up to 100 km/h.

THE FIRST FUNERAL
A 12,000-year-old archeological site in modern-day Israel has revealed the remnants of an ancient, fabulous funeral. The dead woman, probably a shaman, was buried with dozens of tortoise shells, a leopard pelvis, an eagle's wing, a human foot, a boar's arm and the chewed-over remains of what was presumably a farewell feast.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION
Bioluminescence is a phenomenon in which living things (think jellyfish, glow worms and fireflies) produce and emit visible light.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Juanita's teeth are so blindingly bright that if I didn't know better, I would think she's capable of **bioluminescence**.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Is this the biggest 'oopsie' in science history?

What's this I hear about 20 years of brain research being ruined? — I.C., Toronto

I wouldn't say ruined. But yes, neuroscience is in a "Oh. Crap. No way. Really?" moment.

Here's why: In that past 20-odd years, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) has become a really popular tool for brain studies. It records blood flow to different parts of the brain — an indirect measure of brain activity. That information is then *supposed* to be accurately analyzed by statistical software.

But that's not what has been happening, says a new study of the most common MRI-analysis computer programs.

The research, in the journal PNAS, involved dummy experiments with 499 healthy people — experiments that should, reasonably, turn up no results. But up to 70 per cent of the time, the software flagged at least one statistically significant result: A change to participants' brain activity. A change, that, in all likelihood, wasn't really there. The false-positive rate should be no more than 5 per cent.

That means there could be serious, even fatal, flaws in as many as 40,000 studies that used fMRI technology from the 1990s to May 2015, when this tarantula-sized software bug was patched. Yeah. Oops.

fMRI is so cool. It lets us easily see into living brains, in real time, for the first time. And it gave rise to headlines like, "This part of your brain lights up when you __ (eat chocolate, read poetry, see a picture of your mom, etc). These (often small) studies make enticing stories. I admit I've gotten carried away with them.

So carried away, in fact, that I (and many others) discounted the importance of reproducibility. We should be cautious drawing grand conclusions from studies until other teams have been able to repeat the work. It's how scientists limit the impact of random errors and keep each other honest.

Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Let's crush it at the wedding, bro!

MIKE AND DAVE

Zac Efron now carries bromance genre torch

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Adam Devine and Zac Efron are the bros of the hour in Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

I have a brother but he's not my bro, at least not by the contemporary definition.

My sibling and I are biologically brothers but neither of us fall into what the NPR Codeswitch blog described as the four rudimentary characteristics of "bro-iness"— jockish, dudely, stoner-ish and preppy.

There are as many ways to define bros and brahs as there are bros and brahs at your local frat house.

Oxford Dictionary writer Katherine Connor Martin sums it up simply as "a conventional guy's guy who spends a lot of time partying with other young men like himself."

The urban dictionary isn't quite as elegant, describing bros as "obnoxious partying males who are often seen at college parties… (standing) around holding a red plastic cup waiting for something exciting to happen so they can scream something that demonstrates how much they enjoy partying."

This weekend Zac Efron and Adam DeVine play brothers who are also bros in Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates.

Based on the real-life exploits of Mike and Dave Stangle, the guys get out-broed at their sister's Hawaiian wedding by broettes Tatiana and Alice (Aubrey Plaza and Anna Kendrick).

In real life Mike, Dave, Tatiana and Alice are the kind of people it might be fun to hang out with before 10 o'clock at night, before the tequila shots and samplings from the mystery medicine cabinet have taken effect. After that, all bets are off.

Luckily in Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates, like so many bro movies before it, the screen separates us and we can sit back and observe them like cultural anthropologists, as if we're studying animals in a zoo.

Hollywood has long had a bromance with bros.

Lately in movies like Neighbors and Dirty Grandpa, Efron has made a career of playing dim-witted frat boys but to find the proto bros you have to go back to 1940.

Starting with Road to Singapore, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby cocktailed and ad-libbed their way through seven Road movies playing two slightly skeezy men with boatloads of bravado and an unbreakable bond — at least until love interest Dorothy Lamour showed up.

National Lampoon's Animal House was the next landmark of bro-cinema.

From toga parties to food fights and doing The Worm on the dance floor, it's a politically incorrect classic that celebrates the best and worst of bro culture.

A 1996 movie gave us the bro with a million catchphrases like "Vegas, baby," "wingman," "beautiful babies" and "you're so money." As Trent in Swingers, Vince Vaughn gave a voice and brocabulary to a generation of bros. Jon Favreau wrote the script but many of the sayings came directly from the lips of his best friends and co-stars Vaughn and Ron Livingston.

No look at bro-cinema would be complete without a nod toward Will Ferrell. The comedian has broed out on screen many times but Old School's Frank the Tank, a character who unravels after his wife leaves him, is King Bro.

When he's not doing beer bong hits ("Once it hits your lips, it's so good!") or streaking, he lets his freak flag fly as one of the most over-the-top bros ever seen on screen.

Dean Wormer's classic scolding from Animal House, "Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son," doesn't seem to apply, at least to the genre of bro movies.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Secret Life of Pets	★★★★
Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates	★★★
Eat That Question: Frank Zappa in His Own Words	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Actor Paul Dano and director Daniel Scheinert on the set of Swiss Army Man. JOYCE KIM/COURTESY A24

Filmmaking done with body and soul

SWISS ARMY MAN

Movie's gross premise makes for engrossing experience

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Swiss Army Man, the story of a marooned man and his dead buddy's journey back to civilization is a tale of friendship and what it means to be alive, — really and truly alive.

The easy thing would be to describe the new Daniel Radcliffe, Paul Dano two-hander as Cast Away meets Weekend at Bernie's, but that doesn't grab the poetic essence of what the film is trying to achieve.

"We make our movies for ourselves and we wanted to surprise ourselves into learning something and feeling something," says Dan Kwan, the film's co-director and co-writer.

Kwan is half of Daniels, his directing collective with partner Daniel Scheinert. The duo came up with the idea for Swiss Army Man after directing a series of innovative, internet-breaking music videos like DJ Snake and Lil' Jon's Turn Down for What (35 million views and counting).

"We've been working together since 2009 and kind of discovered this movie as much as we wrote it," says Scheinert. "We have very different filmmaking processes but very similar tastes. As we work together certain stories started to reveal themselves.

"It's kind of autobiographical about the two of us. That's a joke answer but it is also kind of true. Certain jokes would make us both laugh. Somewhere in that stew of us becoming friends a movie about two guys becoming friends came out. The signature image of a man riding a corpse's farts across the ocean came out somewhere in there. The relationships with all the crew that made this movie also inspired the movie. We met our DP and our production designer and wrote a movie that played to their strengths."

> **The overall meta joke was, let's make a farting corpse movie but let's make the most personal movie we can.**
> Dan Kwan, co-director and co-writer

With a premise Monty Python might have rejected as too silly, Swiss Army Man uses the relationship between its characters to shed light on everything from stifled machismo and loyalty, to unrequited love and the need for compassion.

"The overall meta joke was, let's make a farting corpse movie but let's make the most personal movie we can," says Kwan. "If people are connecting to it they're connecting to us pouring a lot of ourselves into it."

"Dan keeps saying this movie breeds a strange kind of empathy," adds Scheinert. "One of the goals was to tell the most unlikely love story. We knew Farting Corpse and Daniel Radcliffe would be viral. Cool, but if we can make you really care about that farting corpse, what a cool achievement. If we can do that, what can't you care about?

"You can walk out of the theatre and it will be real hard for you to find someone you can't empathize with once you have just fallen in love with a farting corpse," Scheinert says.

Reviews have ranged from rapturous ("Hilarious, deranged, and always alive with possibility.") to rotten ("ridiculously infantile") but the Daniels are unfazed by the reaction.

"Even some of the bad reviews were sweet and complimentary," says Scheinert. Mostly they just want people to see the film.

"I hope people go to a theatre and watch it with strangers because even if they hate it they'll have a really memorable experience."

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Yo-Yo Ma on instruments of change

MUSIC

Cellist's Silk Road Ensemble mixes sounds, cultures

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Near the beginning of a new documentary called The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, world famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma tells a joke.

A little boy says to his father, "When I grow up I want to be a musician."

"Sorry son," the father replies, "you can't do both."

It's a subject Ma knows something about. Performing since the age of five, by seven he had played for presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy. Since then he has appeared with all the world's great orchestras, released 90 albums and won 18 Grammys.

"The idea of being a musician means that you have access to wonder," he says. "When you become too adult-like and concerned about responsibility you tend to push wonder aside. That moment where you take a step back and look at where we are and look at what the world is about. Those are decisions we have to remake every single day — to engage, to love and care for and to recommit. It's a form of positive will and expression. If you don't have that you can't do anything. To me it is the ultimate antidote to paranoia, to hate, to terror is to care about things. To care about truth and be open."

The cellist's openness led him on a 20-year journey to form The Silk Road Ensemble, a loose collective of international master musicians named after the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean.

Featuring instruments from the Silk Road region, Ma mixes and matches his cello with the exotic sounds of the pipa, a Chinese short-necked plucked lute, a Mongolian horse head fiddle called a morin khuur and a Shakuhachi, a Japanese bamboo flute among others to produce an otherworldly sound that blends different cultures and styles.

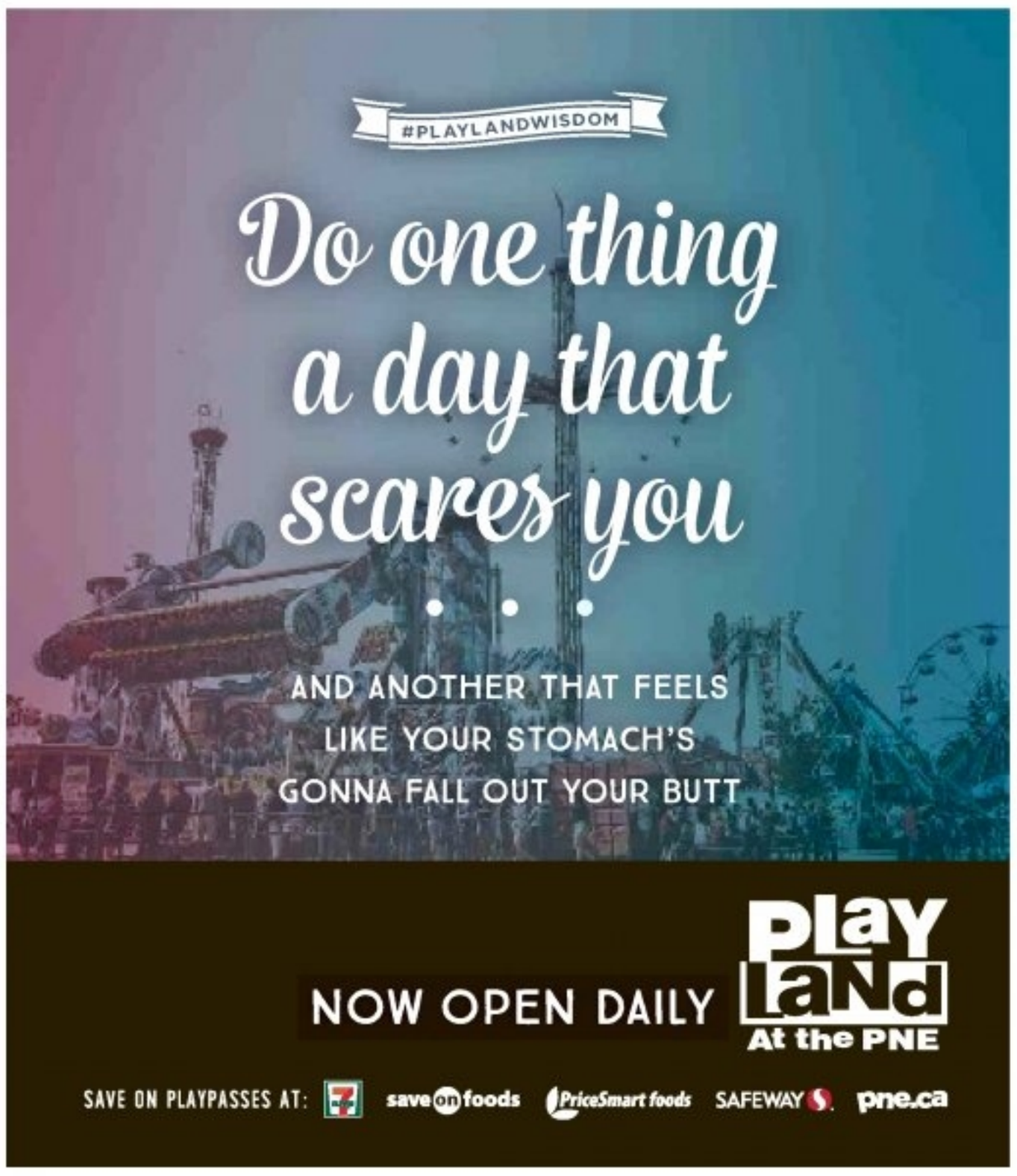
"It's not so much what makes stuff different but more the fact that we work in such a connected world," says Ma. "Part of it is that, and part of it is to recognize the strength of individuality but also inherent in that strength is flexibility. It doesn't mean that because the bagpipe is louder than the violin we should never put the two together. It's more like, unlikely bedfellows, 'O my gosh, there could be something extraordinary that could come from that.'"

Kayhan Kalhor of Silk Road Ensemble and Aynur Doğan show off their skills in the new Yo-Yo Ma documentary The Music of Strangers. COURTESY OF PARTICIPANT MEDIA

The movie, directed by Morgan Neville, who won an Oscar and a Grammy for his 2013 documentary 20 Feet from Stardom, chronicles the evolution of the collective and the individual journeys of the players. Wrapped around those portraits is the story of the group's most famous member. Ma is revealed to be a thoughtful man with a wandering, restless creative spirit.

"I was scared to death before doing something like this," he says. "I'm drawn to what I don't know versus what I do know. I think my life is kind of boring because if you ask me questions about myself you will very often get the same answers. I know the answers. What little I know I can tell you about but that is not particularly interesting. What I don't know is, for me, the source of all knowledge, everything you know is actually very little."

"I'm drawn to what I don't know versus what I do know.
Yo-Yo Ma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LGBTQ DOCUMENTARY

Salvation and the Black Pearl

As a young transgender woman in Uganda, Cleopatra Kambugu found herself at risk simply for seeking to live life as her authentic self.

The East African country is notorious for anti-LGBTQ laws which criminalize same-sex relations. After Kambugu was outed by a tabloid, she went into hiding, relying on her family to bring food and supplies.

After leaving Uganda for Kenya with her partner, Nelson, the LGBTQ activist found new freedom through film.

"I felt this was my last hope to be able to give back to the community by being able to (use) my voice," Kambugu said in an interview for The Pearl of Africa which screened during the Hot-Docs Festival in Toronto.

"It was also safer because I wasn't in Uganda anymore. I was staying in Nairobi. So it was safer for me to proceed with the movie." Kambugu said she had long discussions with filmmaker Jonny von Wallstrom about ensuring there were "different layers and nuances" of how the story was told. "I guess one thing that's never talked about is the apathy and the violence that men or women who date transgender people face. They're also part of the transition."

In addition to reflecting the difficulties faced by the queer community, von Wallstrom said he also wanted to reflect the universality of Kambugu's experience. "I think it's strange that this is only looked upon as a trans story. This is so much more than that. It is also about being black and it's also about being human," he added, noting that the "universal love story" at the centre of the film also resonates.

Cleopatra Kambugu with her boyfriend Nelson in Toronto promoting the documentary The Pearl of Africa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Pearl of Africa arrives on screens at a time where trans rights remain a prominent point of discussion and contention.

The Pentagon has announced transgender people will be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military. Meanwhile, in North Carolina, battle lines continue to be drawn over bathrooms with protests over state law widely seen as discriminatory to LGBTQ people. The law states that transgender people must use bathrooms corresponding with the gender on their birth certificate in government buildings as well as in public schools and universities.

In May, the Obama administration told public schools across the U.S. that transgender students should be allowed to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

"We didn't know four years ago when we started that it would become such an important national topic. And it's really great to see all of a sudden it has become much more relevant," said co-director Jessica Dimmock.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Robert De Niro, fan of the Catskills, gets behind boosting tourism with N.Y. governor

5 WAYS TO GET YOUR EUROPE FIX IN CANADA

Can't travel across the pond this summer? Whether you're craving nature, culture or old-world charm, it's possible to find a slice of Europe right here on Canadian soil. Here are six options for your next 'European' vacation.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO

Stratford-upon-Avon?

Then head to: Stratford, Ont.
Both are known for: Shakespearean theatre scene
Europe: Picturesque Stratford-upon-Avon, set in England's Warwickshire countryside on the banks of the River Avon, is the birthplace of playwright William Shakespeare. Hundreds of years later, it retains this legacy with the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.
Canada: Stratford was named after Shakespeare's birthplace and it's become a well-known arts hub. From April to October, it hosts the annual Stratford Festival, celebrating Shakespearean classics and new works from Canadian playwrights. Plus, it's a pretty town with well-preserved 19th-century architecture, set alongside its very own Avon River.

TORSTAR

Helsinki?

Then head to: Thunder Bay, Ont.
Both are known for: Rugged wilderness, midnight sun and saunas
Europe: Finland is a densely forested country, with long, dark winters and round-the-clock sunshine in summer — and an estimated 2 million saunas.
Canada: Like Helsinki, Thunder Bay is surrounded by rugged wilderness — it's one of the reasons why Finns started settling here in the 1870s. It's now considered one of the largest settlements of Finns outside of Finland, where you'll find a Finn Festival. Head to the Hoito, a legendary Finnish restaurant for Finnish pancakes.

TORSTAR

ISTOCK

Paris?

Then head to: Quebec City
Both are known for: French culture
Europe: Paris is a cultural mecca, known for its art, fashion and cuisine. It's also home to cultural icons such as the Eiffel Tower, Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral.
Canada: Language isn't the only similarity between these two cities. Quebec City has more than 400 years of history, earning it a place on UNESCO's world heritage list. Wander the narrow cobblestone streets lined with cafes, bistros and shops, with the smell of crepes wafting through the air, and you'll be transported to the Left Bank. Quebec City even has its own Seine (the St. Lawrence River) and Notre Dame Basilica.

Budapest?

Then head to: The Canadian Rockies
Both are known for: Natural therapeutic waters
Europe: Budapest is often referred to as "the city of baths," with more than 120 hot springs and a rich spa heritage dating back to Roman times. One of its most renowned public bathhouses is Szechenyo Baths, set in a palatial complex with thermal sitting pools.
Canada: The Canadian Rockies don't look much like Pest, but they're brimming with thermal hot springs and spa culture. Take to the waters at Banff Upper Hot Springs, where you can soak in soothing mineral water against a backdrop of alpine scenery. Miette Hot Springs, in Alberta's Jasper National Park, features the hottest mineral springs in the Rockies, ideal after a day of hiking. And Radium Hot Springs in B.C.'s Kootenay National Park offers expansive hot springs.

TORSTAR

Scotland?

Then head to: The Okanagan
Both are known for: lake monsters
Europe: Loch Ness is a large, deep loch in the Scottish Highlands — so deep, in fact, that its resident lake monster, Nessie, has managed to elude tourists and locals alike for decades.
Canada: While the Okanagan is more desert than highlands, it has its own lake monster. Even if you don't have any luck spotting the multi-humped Ogopogo, Lake Okanagan is a summer paradise.

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"Little shy kid from Chicago came from Milwaukee to Miami and really grew up": Dwyane Wade on Live with Kelly after announcing he'll join the Bulls

Griez-y does it

EURO 2016
SEMIFINALS

France forward helps hosts set up final against Portugal

Antoine Griezmann scored twice as France beat world champion Germany 2-0 on Thursday to line up a European Championship final against Portugal.

Griezmann put France in front from the penalty spot in stoppage time at the end of the first half and then took full advantage of a German defensive blunder to score his second with a calm finish in the 72nd minute.

France reached its first final for a decade and is chasing its first major trophy since Euro 2000. Germany missed its chance to add the European title to the World Cup it won in 2014.

Griezmann has now scored six goals at Euro 2016 — twice as many as any other player at the tournament — and could have completed a hat trick on a break in the 86th but shot straight at goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

"We're very happy," Griezmann said. "We have to keep our feet on the ground. We still have a match to go."

Germany had gone 50 years unbeaten against host nations at major tournaments, dating back to its loss to England in the 1966 World Cup final and encompassing a famous 7-1 humbling of Brazil in the 2014 World Cup semifinals.

France forward Antoine Griezmann scores past Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger in Marseille on Thursday. BERTRAND LANGLOIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THURSDAY In Marseille

While a repeat of the Brazil rout was never on the cards, Germany could have scored more than once as it dominated the first half. But it was denied by poor shooting from Thomas Mueller, who ended his tournament scoreless, and a save by Hugo Lloris to block Emre Can's bouncing shot.

France took the lead from the penalty spot after Bastian Schweinsteiger handled the ball in an aerial challenge with Patrice Evra.

Griezmann stepped up to score, striking the penalty hard to Neuer's right.

"I really wanted to take a penalty in a big match like that. I was very composed, I didn't think twice," Griezmann said.

Trailing in a match for the first time in the tournament, Germany could not recover its previous dominance after half-time. It then had to cope with losing key defender Boateng, who picked up an ankle injury after an hour.

The German defence had not conceded from open play all tournament, but it fell apart for Griezmann's second goal in the 72nd minute. A sluggish pass by Benedikt Hoewedes to right back Joshua Kimmich was cut out by Paul Pogba and Neuer could only palm away the midfielder's cross to Griezmann, who finished with ease. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANUCKS

Markstrom signs 3-year extension

The Vancouver Canucks have signed goaltender Jacob Markstrom to a three-year contract extension.

The contract will carry an annual average value of $3.67 million US and will run through the end of the 2019-20 season.

Markstrom established career highs for games played (33), starts (30) and wins (13), in 2015-16, his sixth NHL season.

The 26-year-old Gavle, Sweden, native finished the season with a 2.73 goals-against average, a .915 save percentage and set career-highs for most shots faced (48) and most saves made (47) in a single game on March 22 at Winnipeg.

Markstrom also posted a record of 1-0-1 during a two-game conditioning stint with the AHL Utica Comets to start the season.

In 83 career NHL games split between Vancouver and Florida, the six-foot-six, 201-pound goaltender has a record of 26-42-9 along with a 3.00 goals-against average and .904 save percentage.

Markstrom is set to represent Sweden at the 2016 World Cup. He helped Sweden win gold at the world championship in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jacob Markstrom. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Venus falls short of all-Williams Wimbledon final

Venus Williams' deepest Grand Slam run in a half-dozen years ended one victory short of what would have been yet another Wimbledon title match against her sister Serena.

Venus was broken in her first four service games Thursday and lost to No. 4-seeded Angelique Kerber 6-4, 6-4. Earlier, Serena needed all of 48 minutes to overwhelm Elena Vesnina 6-2, 6-0. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bombers tame Tiger-Cats

Winnipeg kicker Justin Medlock kicked four field goals to give the Blue Bombers their first win of the season, a 28-24 victory over the Tiger-Cats in Hamilton on Thursday night.

Hamilton committed six turnovers, including two interceptions and three fumbles by QB Jeremiah Masoli. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Thursday night's Lions-Argos game

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RECIPE Fried Egg Sandwich with Avocado Basil Spread

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The delicious avocado spread elevates this simple fried egg sammie to something special, which is what you deserve on a Friday night.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes

Ingredients
- 1/2 avocado
- 5 basil leaves, torn into pieces
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- butter for pan
- 2 eggs
- salt and pepper
- 4 slices bread
- 1./4 cup shaved Monterey jack cheese

Directions

1. In a small bowl, mix avocado until smooth. Stir in the lemon juice and pieces of basil. Set aside. Toast four slices of bread in a toaster oven or toaster. Remove and let cool.

2. Spread two slices with avocado mixture. Set aside.

3. Warm a skillet over medium heat. Add 1 to 2 teaspoons of butter and melt. Crack the eggs into the pan and season with salt and pepper. Cook until whites are nearly set then gently flip eggs. Allow to cook another minute and then remove from pan, placing one on each slice of bread without avocado spread.

4. Sprinkle the warm egg with cheese. Top with the slice of bread that has the avocado spread. Cut and serve warm and runny.

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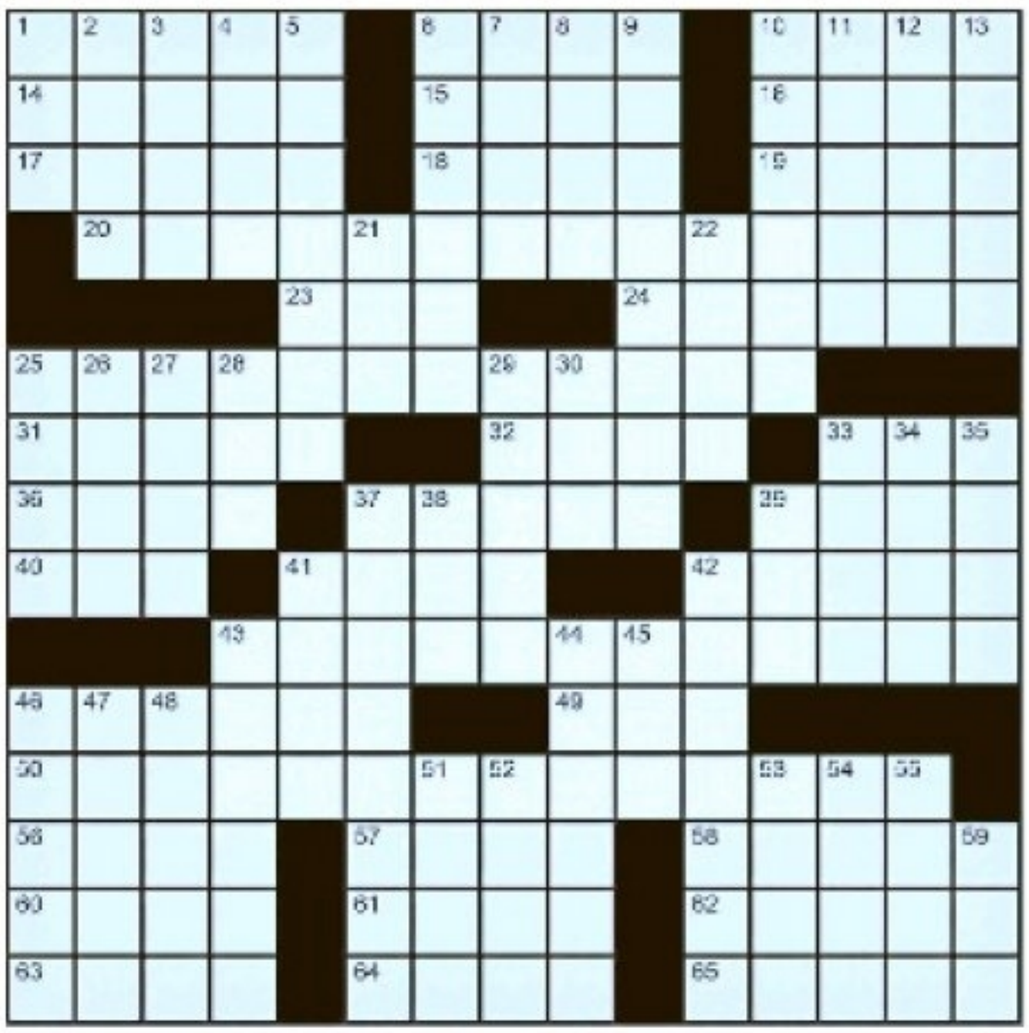
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Some choral voices
6. _-spa (Day-of-beauty destination)
10. First word in a pageant winner's title
14. Comb's one-of-some
15. Shakespeare's river
16. British comic actor Eric
17. Donny's showbiz sidekick/sister
18. Loaned
19. Horserider's strap
20. Bacteria and fungi
23. Triumph
24. Style of beard
25. The Mosasaur, a prehistoric marine reptile, is Manitoba's official what?: 2 wds.
31. Altercation
32. Sacred bird in ancient Egypt
33. 1984 Cyndi Lauper hit: "_ Bop"
36. Mr. Stonestreet of "Modern Family"
37. Baccarat call
39. Out
40. Abbr. with the date on a been-around-a-long-time company's sign
41. "Remember (Walking in the _)" by The Shangri-Las
42. Dish
43. PEI's provincial flower: 2 wds.
46. The _ (Famous street in London, England)
49. Criticize
50. In the Meat Loaf tune "...there ain't no Coupe de Ville hiding at the bottom..." of a what?: 3 wds.
56. Pig's utterance
57. Barbarian
58. High wave
60. Libertine
61. Pedicure focus
62. Rob
63. Spot
64. _ Terrier (Scottish dog breed)
65. "_ seen his face before..." - The Beatles, "A Day in the Life"

DOWN
1. Li'l money dispenser
2. Garden centre purchase
3. "Nobody Love" singer Ms. Kelly
4. 'Hypn' suffix
5. Big name in paint, _-Williams
6. "Cheers" bartender Sam
7. At all?
8. Ding-_!
9. Etched plate printing process
10. Sister of Moses
11. That is, in Latin: 2 wds.
12. Green goo
13. Brains
21. Midnight _ (Australian band)
22. Denials/rejections, sometimes
25. Complimentary
26. Belonging to us
27. Annoyed mood
28. As written
29. Intellects
30. Telly-watcher's network
33. Give and take
34. Really, really don't like
35. Observer
37. Unrepaid loans: 2 wds.
38. "_ Day Now": 1962 Chuck Jackson hit
39. Austrian peak
41. What the Titanic famously did alas
42. Most rosy
43. Flunky
44. Slimly spread
45. _-Megantic, Quebec
46. Project for Francis Lai or John Williams
47. Peter, Paul and Mary ...and others
48. Accumulated, as a restaurant tab: 2 wds.
51. Chess piece
52. _ Potter, played by Katie Holmes on "Dawson's Creek"
53. Tub
54. Arch type
55. Medical lab picture
59. Antiquity

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a wonderful day to tackle home repairs or have important family discussions; on the whole, people are upbeat and positive. Nevertheless, a brief encounter with your boss might be another matter.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today you feel optimistic and hopeful for your future. This is good. Admittedly, responsibilities with children might be challenging.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Look for ways to boost your income, because they exist. Meanwhile, be patient with Mom or an older female relative.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you seem to be larger than life, which is why it's a good day to make overall plans for the future. Your mind is clear, sharp and ready for big ideas!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an excellent day to do behind-the-scenes research, because you are in the right frame of mind. You believe you will find what you're looking for, which is why you will probably will!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Group discussions and talks with clubs and associations will be positive today. Your enthusiasm will persuade others to endorse your ideas.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a strong day to talk to bosses, parents and authority figures. Don't listen to nagging second doubts that you privately might have. Just do it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a great day to study something new. It's also a good day to make plans for publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Travel plans will be ambitious!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Sit down with someone today to discuss shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt, because you will make strides in these areas. Everyone wants a win/win solution.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Relations with others are excellent today. People are interested in new information, because they are impressed with the power of positive thinking.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will accomplish a lot at work today, because you are in a positive frame of mind. Briefly, you might be discouraged about budget restraints or shared equipment.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful day for social occasions, the arts, sports events and playful times with children. Be patient with a partner, because a few glitches might arise.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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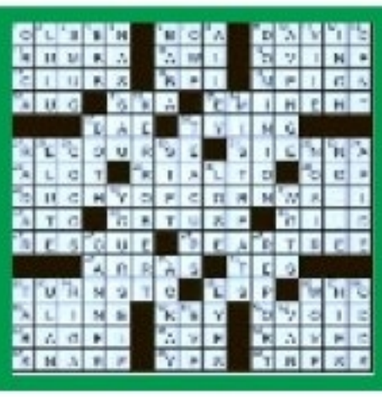

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